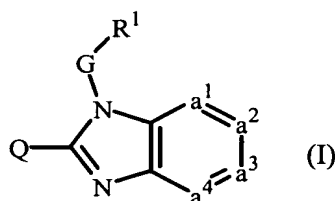


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. *(previously presented)* A compound of formula

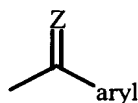


an *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof

wherein  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  represents a bivalent radical of formula

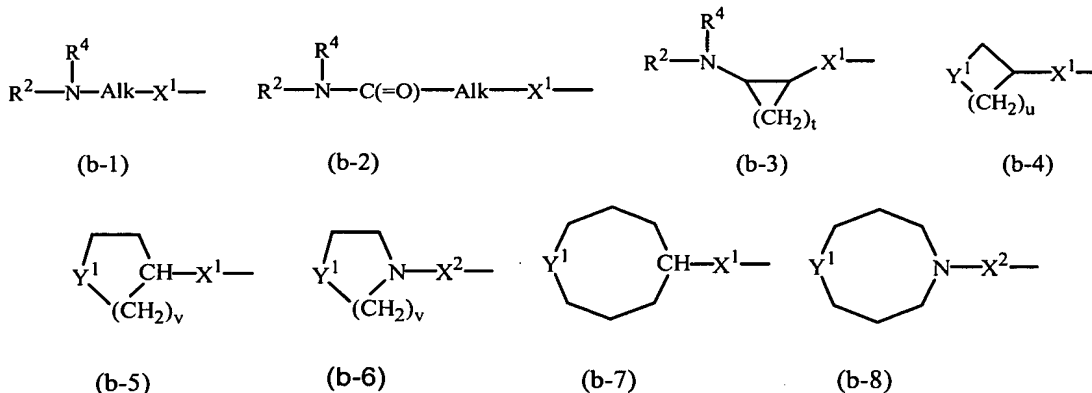


wherein each hydrogen atom in the radical (a-1) may optionally be replaced by halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, nitro, amino, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, polyhaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, carboxyl, aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or a radical of formula



wherein =Z is =O, =CH-C(=O)-NR<sup>5a</sup>R<sup>5b</sup>, =CH<sub>2</sub>, =CH-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, =N-OH or =N-O-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

Q is a radical of formula



wherein

Alk is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediyl;

Y<sup>1</sup> is a bivalent radical of formula -NR<sup>2</sup>- or -CH(NR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>4</sup>)-;

X<sup>1</sup> is NR<sup>4</sup>, S, S(=O), S(=O)<sub>2</sub>, O, CH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O), C(=CH<sub>2</sub>), CH(OH), CH(CH<sub>3</sub>), CH(OCH<sub>3</sub>), CH(SCH<sub>3</sub>), CH(NR<sup>5a</sup>R<sup>5b</sup>), CH<sub>2</sub>-NR<sup>4</sup> or NR<sup>4</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>;

X<sup>2</sup> is a direct bond, CH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O), NR<sup>4</sup>, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylene-NR<sup>4</sup>, or NR<sup>4</sup>-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylene;

t is 2, 3, 4 or 5;

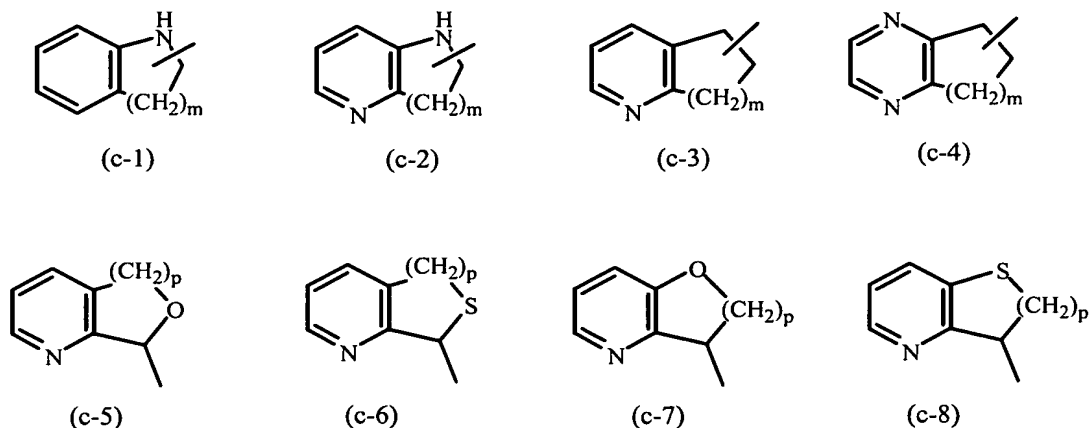
u is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

v is 2 or 3; and

whereby each hydrogen atom in Alk and the carbocycles and the heterocycles defined in radicals (b-3), (b-4), (b-5), (b-6), (b-7) and (b-8) may optionally be replaced by R<sup>3</sup>; with the proviso that when R<sup>3</sup> is hydroxy or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, then R<sup>3</sup> can not replace a hydrogen atom in the α position relative to a nitrogen atom;

G is a direct bond or C<sub>1-10</sub>alkanediyl optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthio, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthio, arylcarbonyl, HO(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, amino, mono-or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonylamino and aryl;

R<sup>1</sup> is a bicyclic heterocycle selected from quinoliny, quinoxaliny, benzofurany, benzothiény, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzthiazolyl, pyridopyridyl, naphthyridiny, 1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridiny, 3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridiny, imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridiny, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-dioxino[2,3-*b*]pyridyl or a radical of formula



and said bicyclic heterocycles may optionally be substituted in either of the two cycles with 1 or where possible more substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthio, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, aryl, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, mono-or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino, mono-or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, polyhaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonylamino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-SO<sub>2</sub>-NR<sup>5c</sup>, aryl-SO<sub>2</sub>-NR<sup>5c</sup>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-NR<sup>5c</sup>R<sup>5d</sup>, HO(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>, halo(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub> and mono-or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>;

each n independently is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each m independently is 1 or 2;

each p independently is 1 or 2;

each R<sup>2</sup> independently is hydrogen, formyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl, Hetcarbonyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl substituted with N(R<sup>6</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, or C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl substituted with N(R<sup>6</sup>)<sub>2</sub> and optionally with a second, third or fourth substituent selected from amino, hydroxy, C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>2-5</sub>alkanediyl (wherein said C<sub>2-5</sub>alkanediyl is substituted on one carbon atom of said C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl substituted with N(R<sup>6</sup>)<sub>2</sub> to form a spiro moiety), piperidinyl, mono-or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonylamino, aryl and aryloxy;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>5a</sup>, R<sup>5b</sup>, R<sup>5c</sup> and R<sup>5d</sup> each independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; or

$R^{5a}$  and  $R^{5b}$ , or  $R^{5c}$  and  $R^{5d}$  taken together form a bivalent radical of formula  $-(CH_2)_s-$  wherein  $s$  is 4 or 5;

$R^6$  is hydrogen,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, formyl, hydroxy $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkylcarbonyl or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxycarbonyl;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more substituents selected from halo, hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, hydroxy $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, polyhalo $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy; and

Het is pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, or pyridazinyl.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $Q$  is a radical of formula (b-5) wherein  $v$  is 2 and  $Y^1$  is  $-NR^2-$ .

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  is  $C_{1-10}$ alkyl substituted with  $NHR^6$ .

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $G$  is a direct bond or  $C_{1-10}$ alkanediyl optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy, aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy,  $HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$ ,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$ , and aryl $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$ .

6. (previously presented) A compound wherein the compound is

$(\pm)-N$ -[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-[1-(8-quinolinyl)ethyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate;

$(\pm)-N$ -[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-bromo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-8-quinolinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

$(\pm)-N$ -[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

$(\pm)-N$ -[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(1-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(ethoxy-8-quinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

*N*-[1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-yl]-1,3-propanediamine trihydrochloride monohydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-[1-(aminomethyl)-2-methylpropyl]-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(1-isoquinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2,3-dimethyl-5-quinoxaliny)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

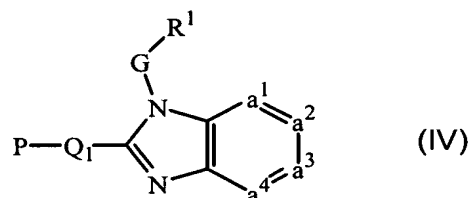
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(3-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride monohydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(3-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate;

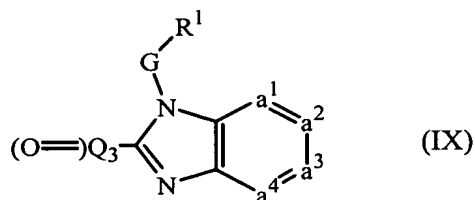
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-4-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate;  
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-[(1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;  
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-4-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;  
((1-isoquinolin-1-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-piperidin-4-yl-amine;  
(1-(4-(1-isoquinolin-1-ylmethyl-1*H*-benzoimidazol-2-ylamino)-piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-2-methyl-propyl)-carbamic acid tert-butyl ester; or  
an *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof.

7. (*previously presented*) A method of treating a respiratory syncytial viral infection, comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 3 to 6.
8. (*previously presented*) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 3 to 6.
9. (*previously presented*) A process of preparing a composition as claimed in claim 8, comprising the step of intimately mixing said carrier with said compound.
10. (*original*) An intermediate of formula



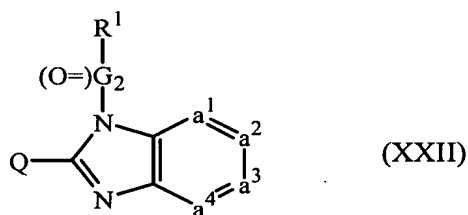
with  $R^1$ , G and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, P being a protective group, and  $Q_1$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 but being devoided of the  $R^2$  or  $R^6$  substituent.

11. *(original)* An intermediate of formula



with  $R^1$ ,  $G$  and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $(O=)Q_3$  being a carbonyl derivative of  $Q$ , said  $Q$  being defined according to claim 1, provided that it is devoided of the  $NR^2R^4$  or  $NR^2$  substituent.

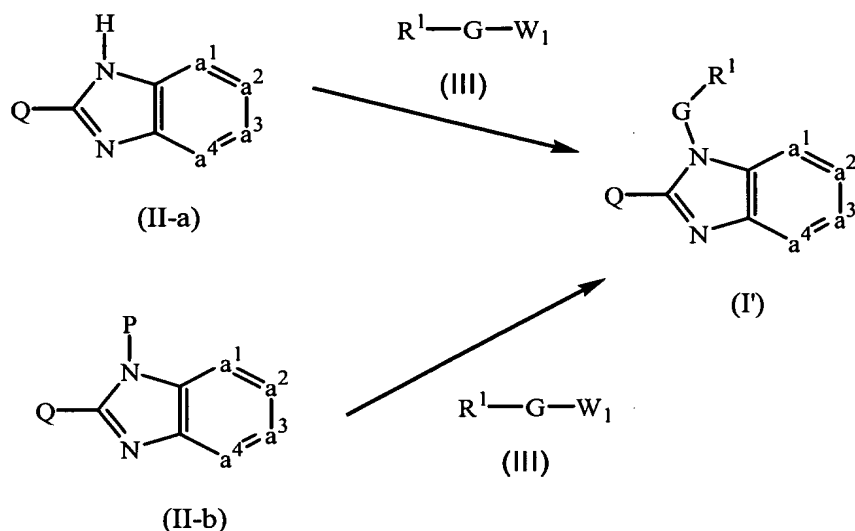
12. *(original)* An intermediate of formula



with  $R^1$ ,  $Q$  and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $(O=)G_2$  being a carbonyl derivative of  $G$ , said  $G$  being defined according to claim 1.

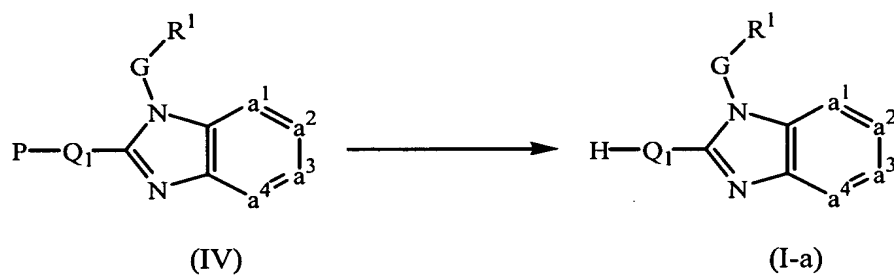
13. *(previously presented)* A process of preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least one step selected from the group consisting of:

- a) reacting an intermediate of formula (II-a) or (II-b) with an intermediate of formula (III)



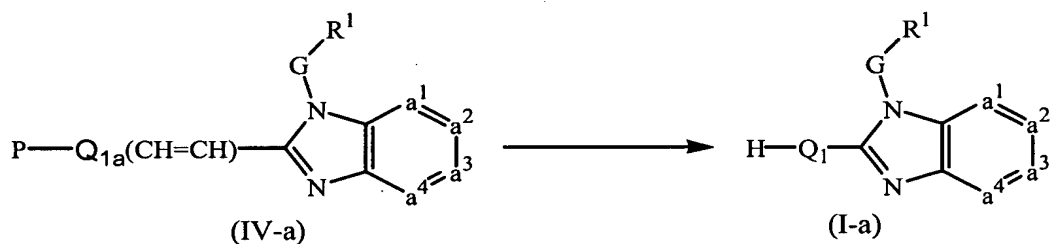
with  $\text{R}^1$ , G, Q and  $\text{--a}^1\text{=a}^2\text{--a}^3\text{=a}^4\text{--}$  defined as in claim 1, and  $\text{W}_1$  being a suitable leaving group, in the presence of a suitable base and in a suitable reaction-inert solvent;

- b) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (IV)



with  $\text{R}^1$ , G, and  $\text{--a}^1\text{=a}^2\text{--a}^3\text{=a}^4\text{--}$  defined as in claim 1,  $\text{H-Q}_1$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that  $\text{R}^2$  or at least one  $\text{R}^6$  substituent is hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

- c) deprotecting and reducing an intermediate of formula (IV-a)

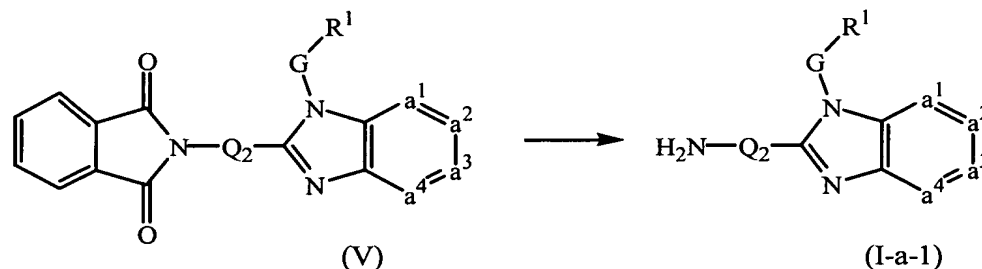


with  $\text{R}^1$ , G, and  $\text{--a}^1\text{=a}^2\text{--a}^3\text{=a}^4\text{--}$  defined as in claim 1,  $\text{H-Q}_1$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that  $\text{R}^2$  or at least one  $\text{R}^6$  substituent is



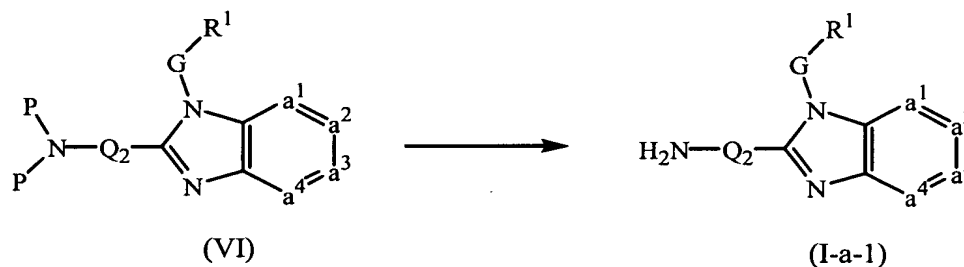
hydrogen,  $Q_{1a}(CH=CH)$  being defined as  $Q_1$  provided that  $Q_1$  comprises an unsaturated bond, and P being a protective group;

- d) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (V)



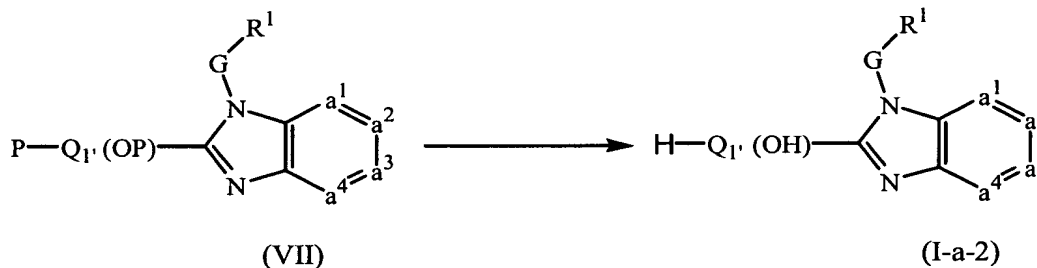
with  $R^1$ , G, and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $H_2N-Q_2$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both  $R^6$  substituents are hydrogen or  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are both hydrogen;

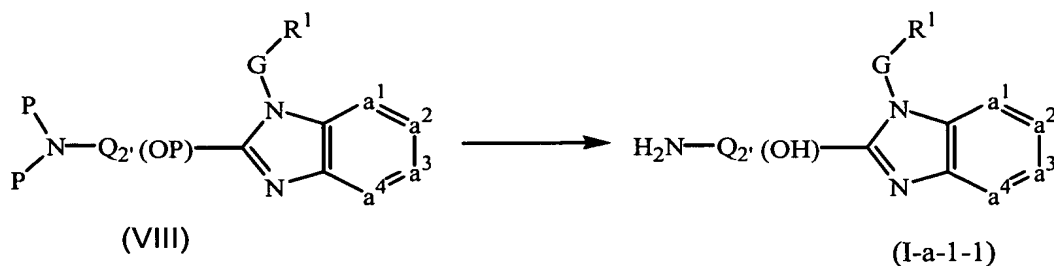
- e) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VI)



with  $R^1$ , G, and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $H_2N-Q_2$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both  $R^6$  substituents are hydrogen or  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are both hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

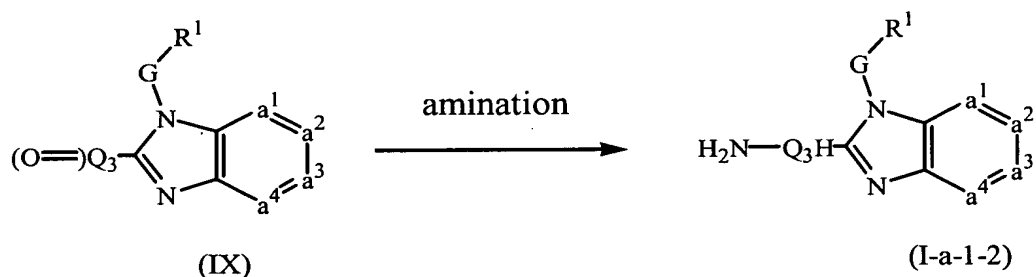
- f) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VII) or (VIII)





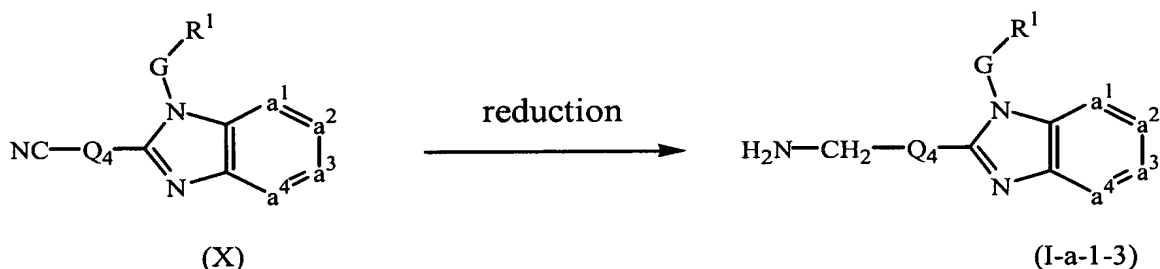
with  $R^1$ ,  $G$ , and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1,  $H-Q_1'(OH)$  being defined as  $Q$  according to claim 1 provided that  $R^2$  or at least one  $R^6$  substituent is hydrogen and provided that  $Q$  comprises a hydroxy moiety,  $H_2N-Q_2'(OH)$  being defined as  $Q$  according to claim 1 provided that both  $R^6$  substituents are hydrogen or  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are both hydrogen and provided that  $Q$  comprises a hydroxy moiety, and  $P$  being a protective group;

g) amination of an intermediate of formula (IX)



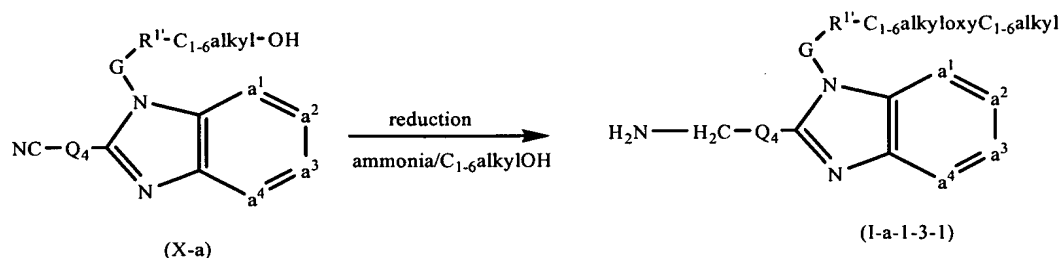
with  $R^1$ ,  $G$ , and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $H_2N-Q_3H$  being defined as  $Q$  according to claim 1 provided that both  $R^6$  substituents are hydrogen or  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are both hydrogen, and the carbon adjacent to the nitrogen carrying the  $R^6$ , or  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  substituents contains at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

h) reducing an intermediate of formula (X)



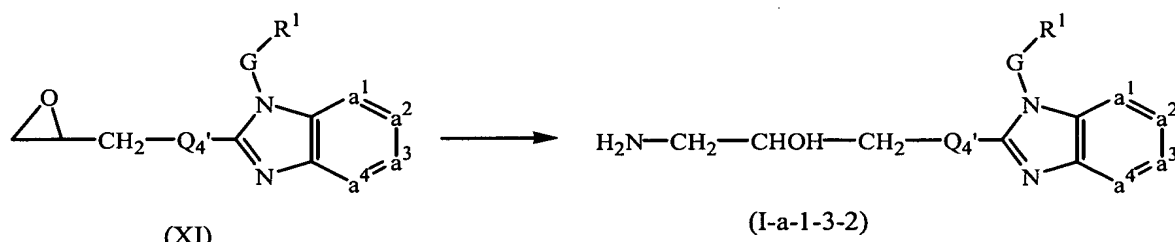
with  $R^1$ , G, and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $H_2N-CH_2-Q_4$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a  $-CH_2-NH_2$  moiety, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

- i) reducing an intermediate of formula (X-a)



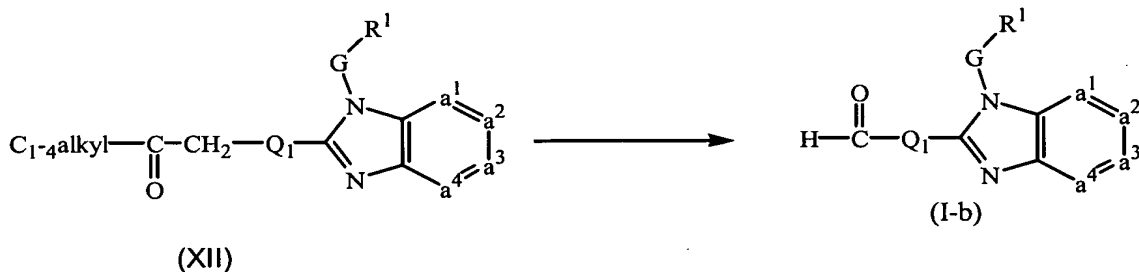
with G, and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1,  $H_2N-CH_2-Q_4$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a  $-CH_2-NH_2$  moiety, and  $R^{1'}$  being defined as  $R^1$  according to claim 1 provided that it comprises at least one substituent, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent and suitable solvent;

- j) amination of an intermediate of formula (XI)



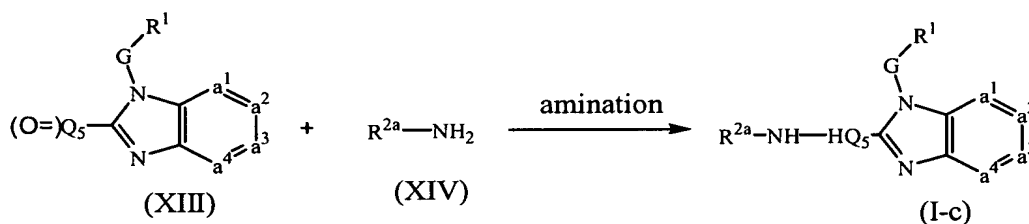
with  $R^1$ , G, and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $H_2N-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-Q_4'$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a  $CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-NH_2$  moiety, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

- k) reacting an intermediate of formula (XII) with formic acid, formamide and ammonia



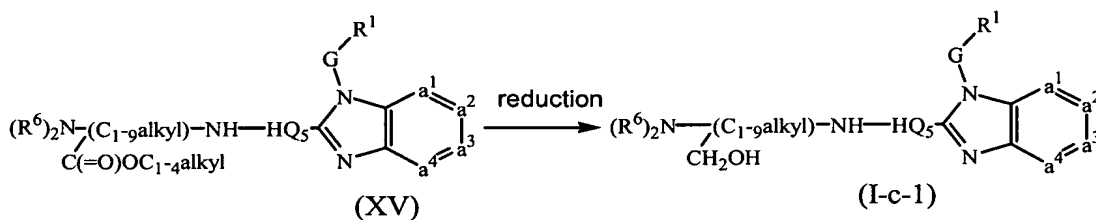
with  $R^1$ ,  $G$ , and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $H-C(=O)-Q_1$  being defined as  $Q$  according to claim 1 provided that  $R^2$  or at least one  $R^6$  substituent is formyl;

- l) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIII) by reaction with an intermediate of formula (XIV)



with  $R^1$ ,  $G$ , and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $R^{2a}-NH-HQ_5$  being defined as  $Q$  according to claim 1 provided that  $R^2$  is other than hydrogen and is represented by  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^4$  is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

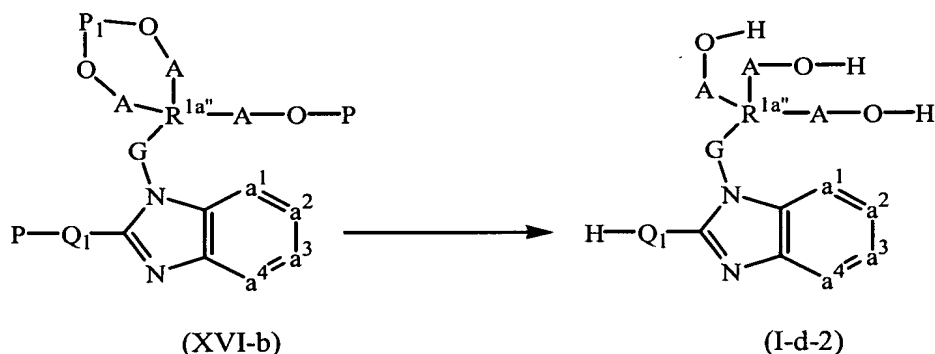
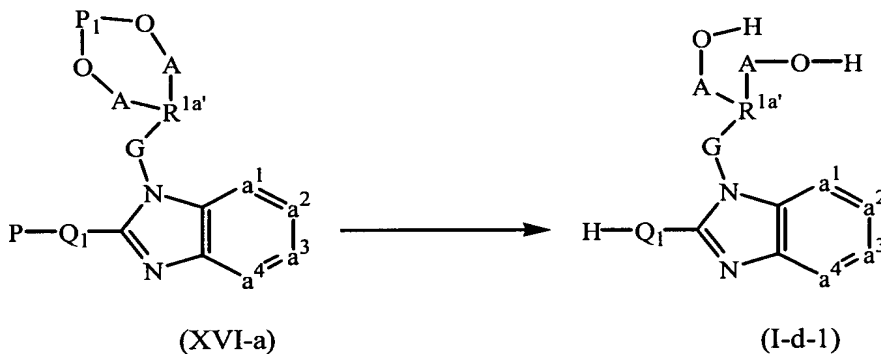
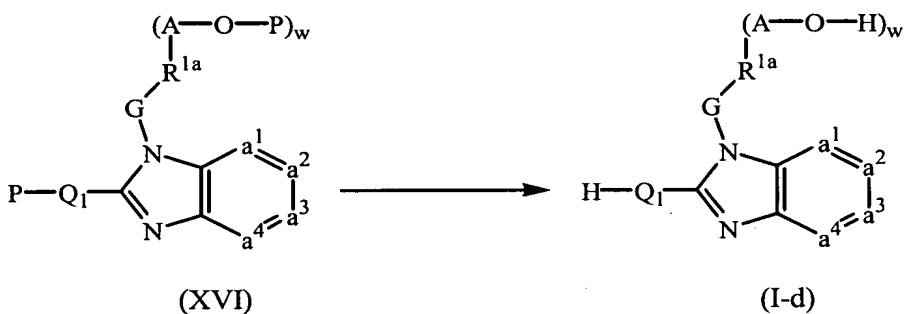
- m) reducing an intermediate of formula (XV)



with  $R^1$ ,  $G$ , and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $(R^6)_2N-[(C_{1-9}alkyl)CH_2OH]-NH-HQ_5$  being defined as  $Q$  according to claim 1 provided that  $R^2$  is other than hydrogen and is represented by  $C_{1-10}alkyl$  substituted with  $N(R^6)_2$  and with hydroxy, and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy, carries also two hydrogen atoms, and provided that  $R^4$  is hydrogen,

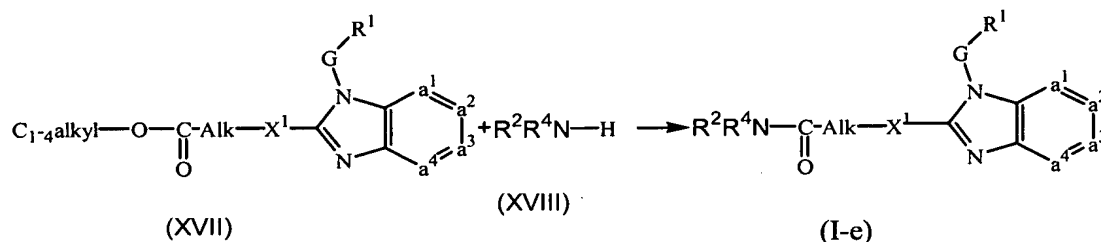
and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, with a suitable reducing agent;

- n) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XVI), (XVI-a) or (XVI-b)



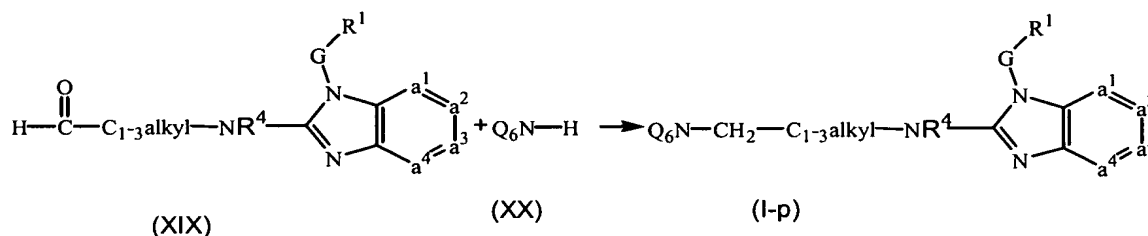
with G, and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and H-Q<sub>1</sub> being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that  $R^2$  or at least one  $R^6$  substituent is hydrogen, and  $R^{1a}-(A-O-H)_w$ ,  $R^{1a'}-(A-O-H)_2$  and  $R^{1a''}-(A-O-H)_3$  being defined as  $R^1$  according to claim 1 provided that  $R^1$  is substituted with hydroxy, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or HO(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, with w being an integer from 1 to 4 and P or P<sub>1</sub> being a suitable protecting group, with a suitable acid;

- o) amination of an intermediate of formula (XVII)



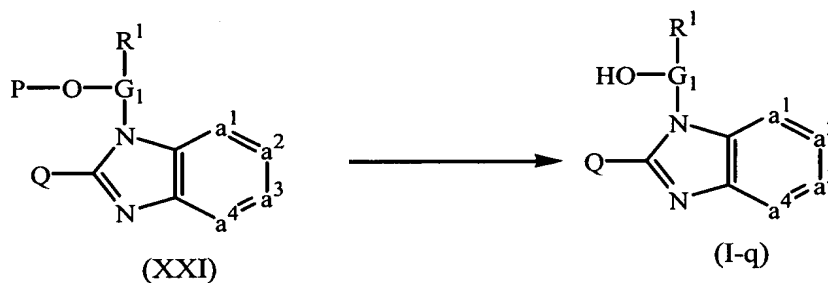
with  $\text{R}^1$ , G,  $-\text{a}^1=\text{a}^2-\text{a}^3=\text{a}^4-$ , Alk,  $\text{X}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^4$  defined as in claim 1, in the presence of a suitable amination agent;

- p) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIX)



with  $\text{R}^1$ , G, and  $-\text{a}^1=\text{a}^2-\text{a}^3=\text{a}^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $\text{Q}_6\text{N}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}-\text{NR}^4$  being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that in the definition of Q,  $\text{X}^2$  is  $\text{C}_{2-4}\text{alkyl}-\text{NR}^4$ , in the presence of a suitable amination agent;

- q) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XXI)



with  $\text{R}^1$ , Q, and  $-\text{a}^1=\text{a}^2-\text{a}^3=\text{a}^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and  $\text{HO}-\text{G}_1$  being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy or  $\text{HO}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n$ ; and

- r) reducing an intermediate of formula (XXII)



with  $R^1$ , Q, and  $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$  defined as in claim 1, and H-G<sub>2</sub>-OH being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy substituent carries also at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent.

14. *(cancelled)*

15. *(cancelled)*

16. *(currently amended)* The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula **(I)** (**(A)**), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic acid addition salt by treatment with an acid.

17. *(currently amended)* The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula **(I)** (**(A)**), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic base addition salt by treatment with alkali.

18. *(currently amended)* The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting the acid addition salt form of compound of formula **(I)** (**(A)**), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into the free base by treatment with alkali.

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**PATENT**

19. (*currently amended*) The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting the base addition salt form of compound of formula (I) (~~(I<sup>2</sup>)~~), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into the free acid by treatment with acid.